MassArt Photography

2012 Senior Thesis Catalog

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FOREWORD

Robert Irwin has asserted that the pure subject of art is aesthetic perception itself; that art exists not in objects, but in a way of seeing. For the past few years, the students represented in this catalog have been honing their particular visions of the world in the confines of MassArt's Photography Department. All of them undoubtedly entered the program enchanted by photography as some form of magic, then enthusiastically set themselves to harnessing it. Along the way, they mastered an array of technologies, developed an awareness of their place in history, located difficult questions within themselves, and shaped their creative pursuits in direct relation to their own needs. These last steps are crucial and amount to nothing short of learning the most important thing anyone can learn in college: how to learn. As Irwin put it, they came to understand, "That ultimately they are what it is they have to contribute."

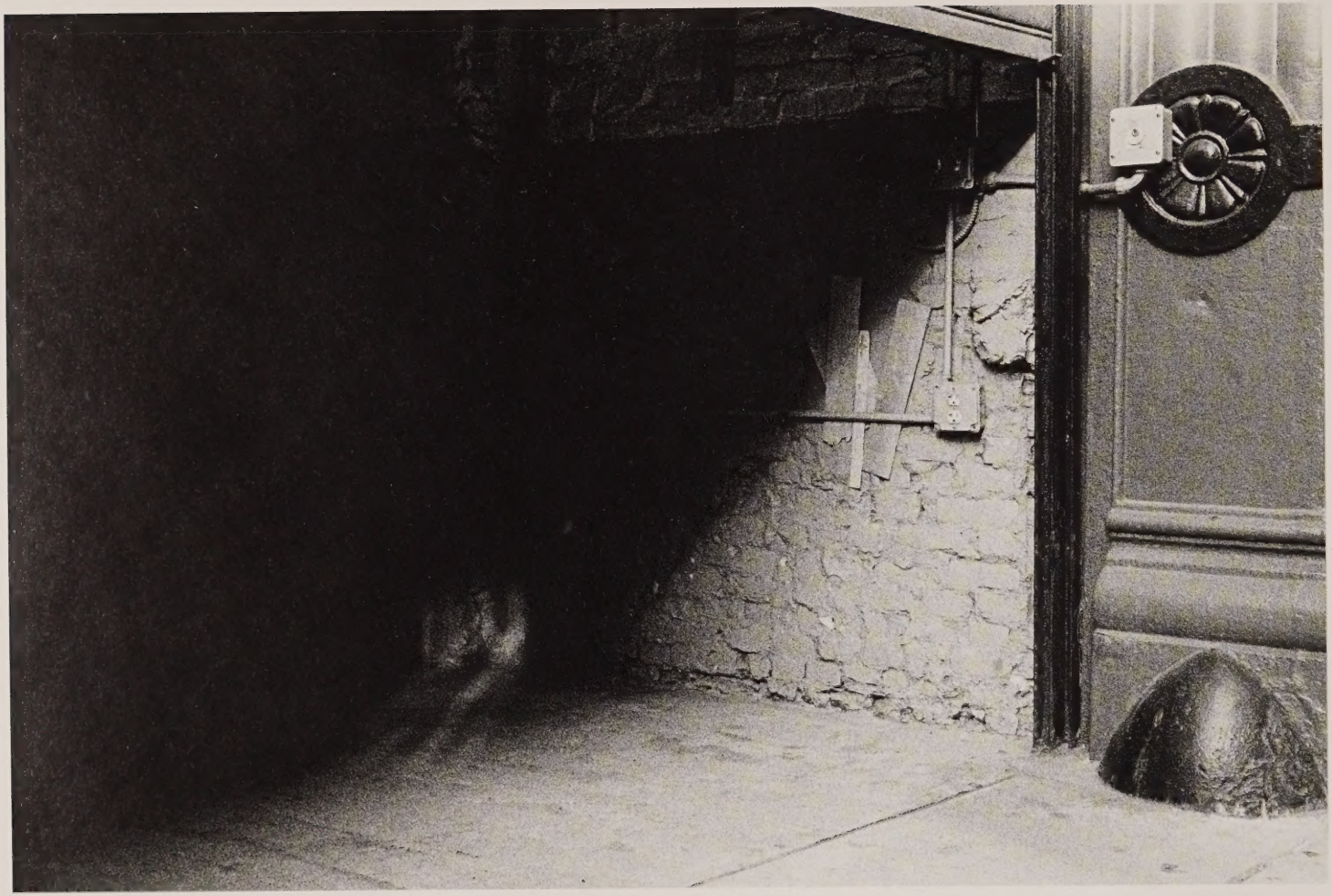
The images reproduced here are a small but potent sample of this charged process. They can by no means be considered culminations, but are evidence of a fluency in photographic language, spoken in the peculiar dialect of each maker's personal contradictions. Every picture has been subjected to a great deal of scrutiny. Many are hard fought victories emerging from tough moments in deteriorating rooms with teachers who seemed pathologically insistent on explanations. Others sprang effortlessly from paroxysms of wonder.

No attempt at summation will do justice to the distinctly individual artistic inquiries here, but even the most casual viewer will sense affinities throughout. Collectively, the pictures embrace photography's distinctive power of description, and carry the conviction that it can be leveraged for compelling life to return its truths. A particular tenor of eloquence, humor, insight, and provocation has also seeped into the disparate subjects of these pictures that came to life in the erratic climate of the Kennedy Building.

Above all, this catalog reveals that these students have developed the means to transcribe the world according to their way of seeing. This can be attributed as much to shared experience as to any teaching that was done. They witnessed firsthand art's ability to form meaningful constituencies and tether human beings to one another through an active exchange of images and ideas. As they proceed through their futures, the unique contributions they made to this community will surely reverberate through each others' lives as they will through mine.

Matthew Connors
March, 2012

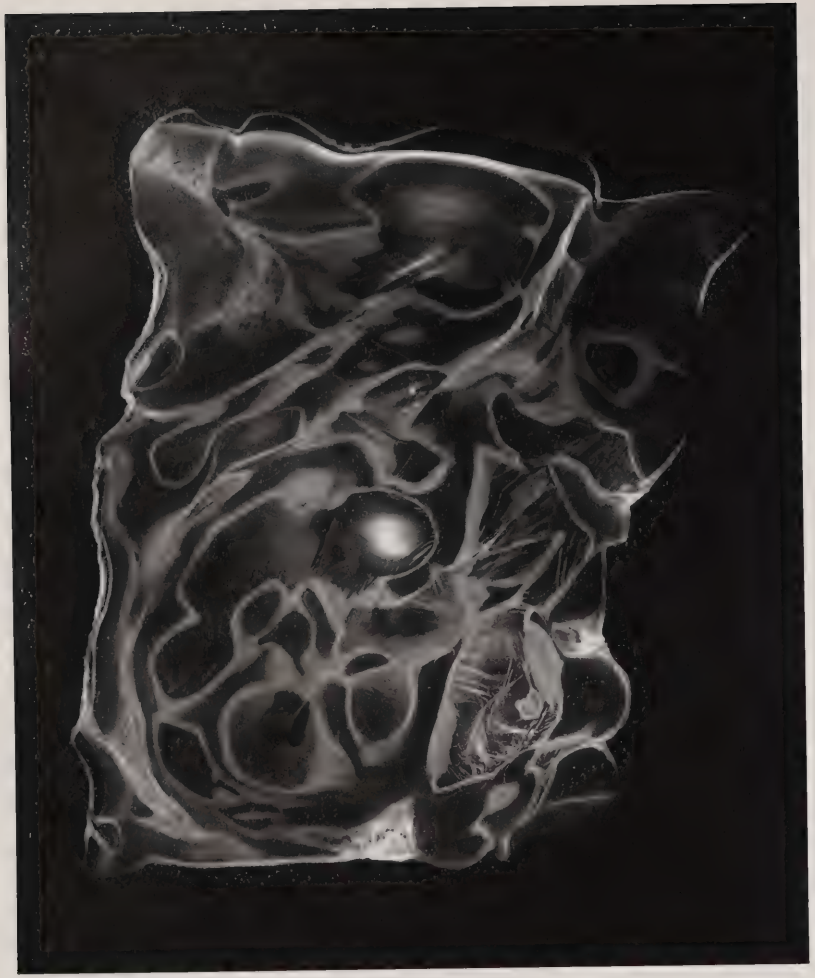
STUDENT WORK



Mariah Azoti

Genesis Baez

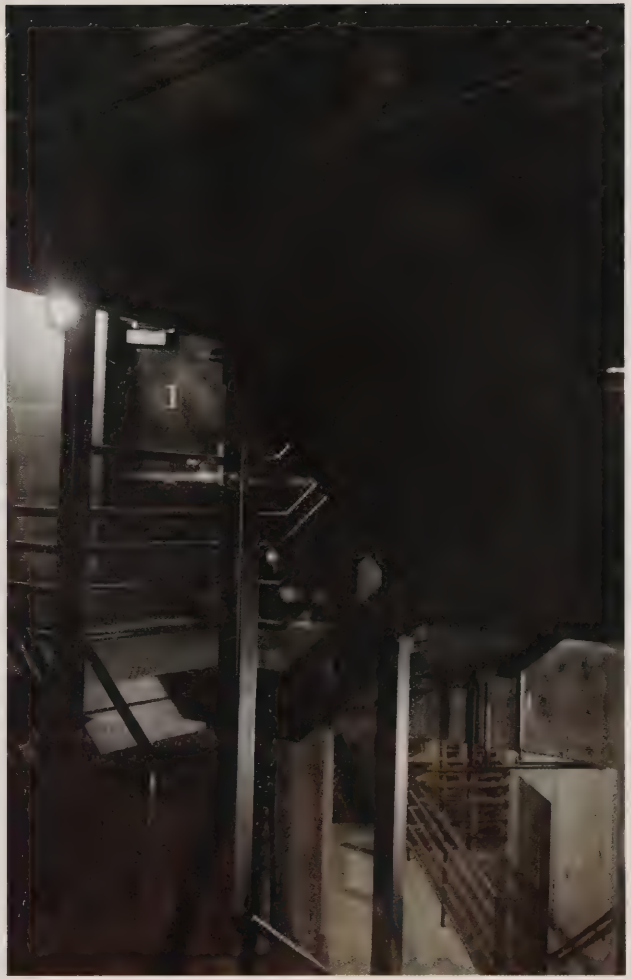
Anthony Barron



Laisa Beilomo-Johnson

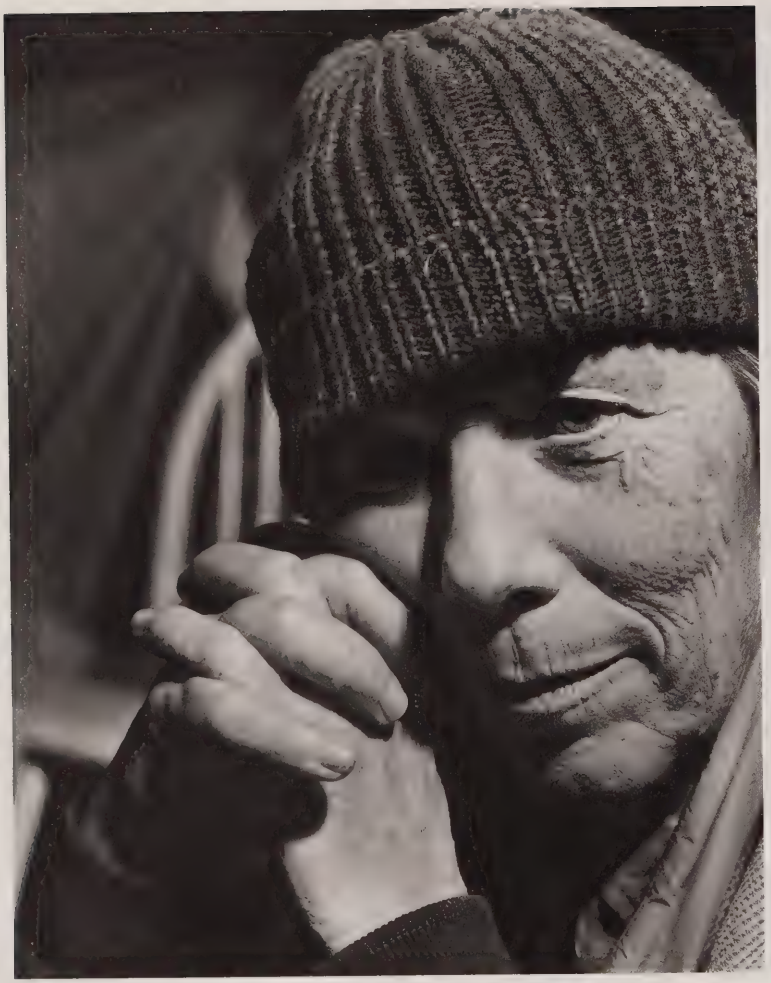
Jessica Bevis

Stephanie Bucci

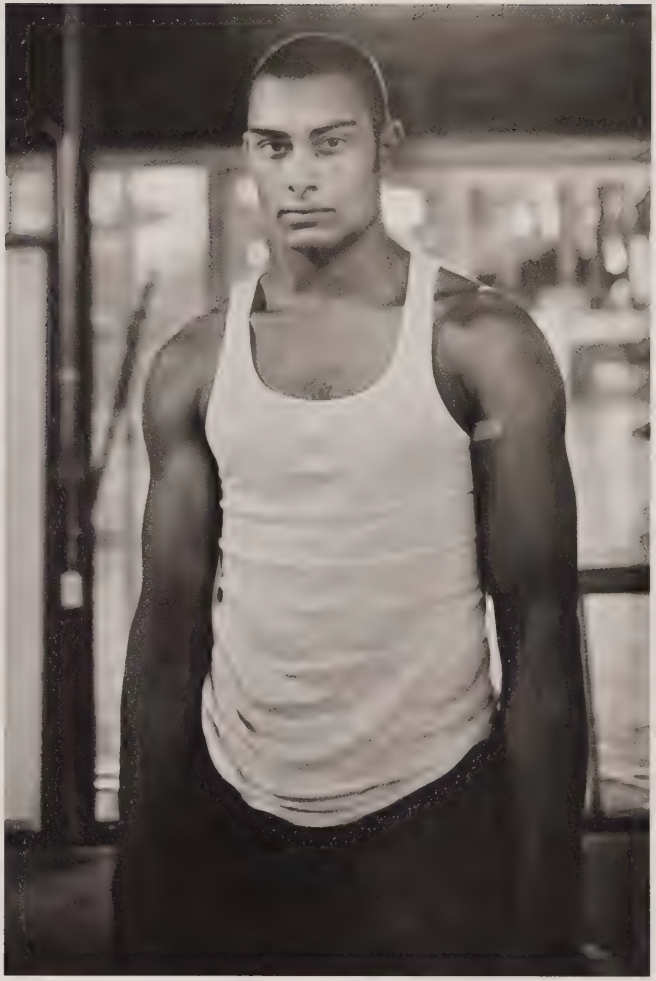


Brittany Careau

Kyle Carrier



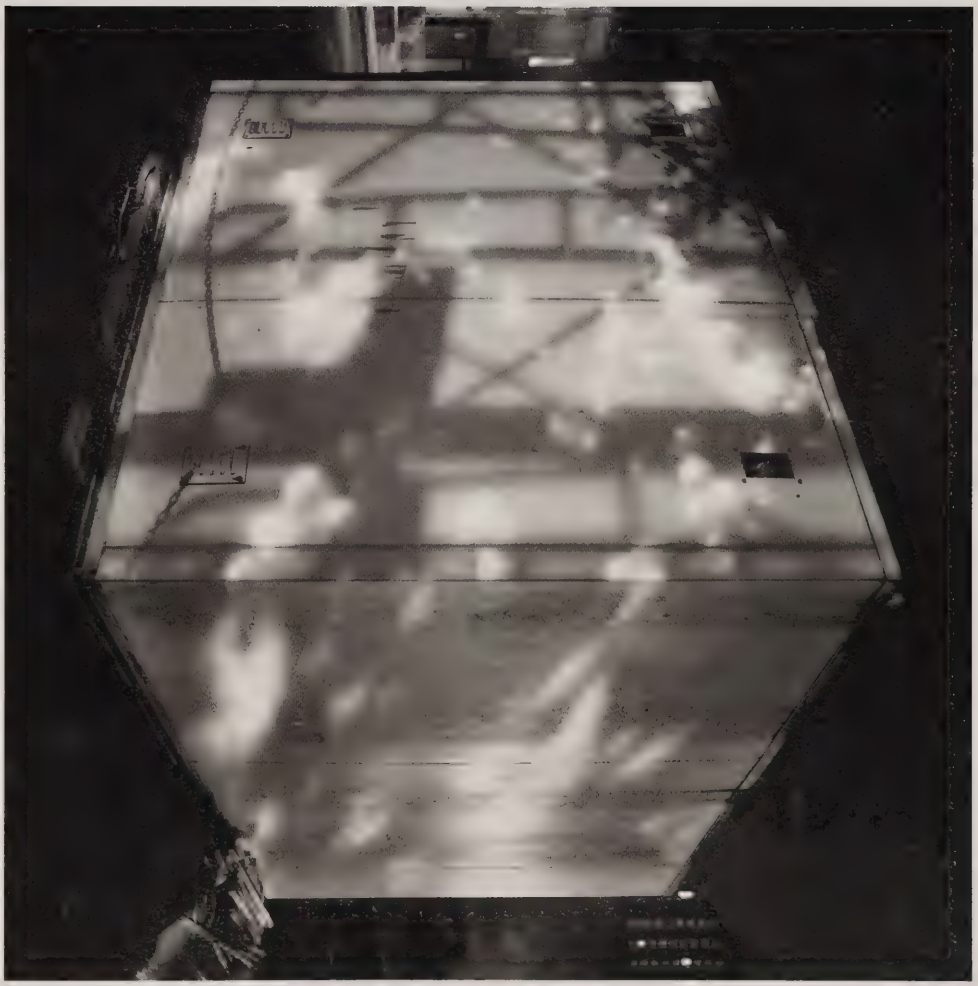
Michelle Chan



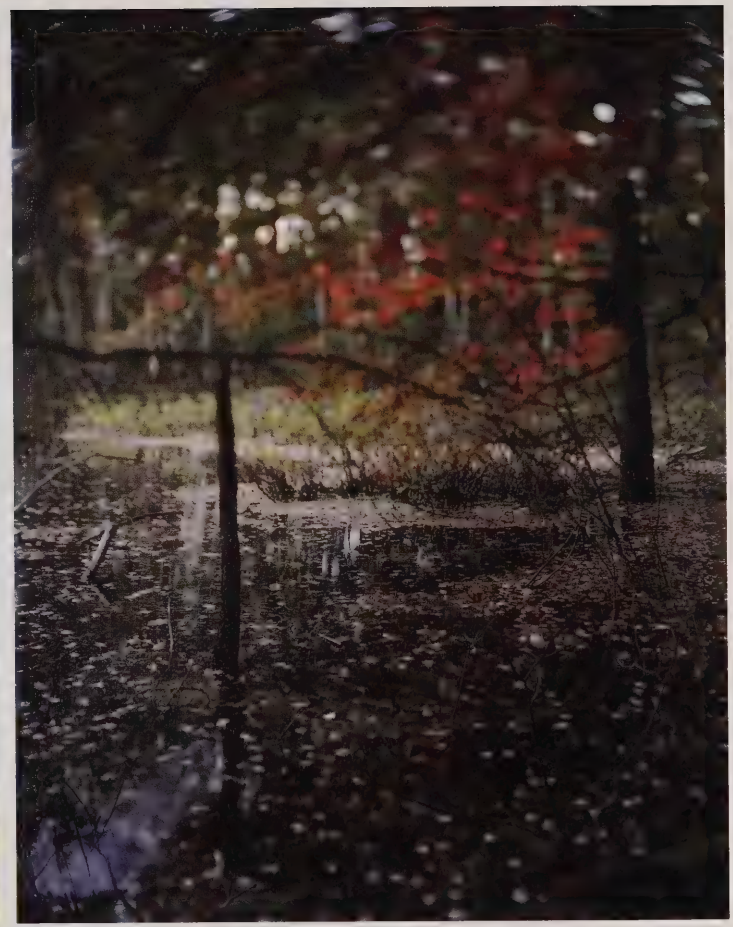
Abigail Clayton

Susan Deleo

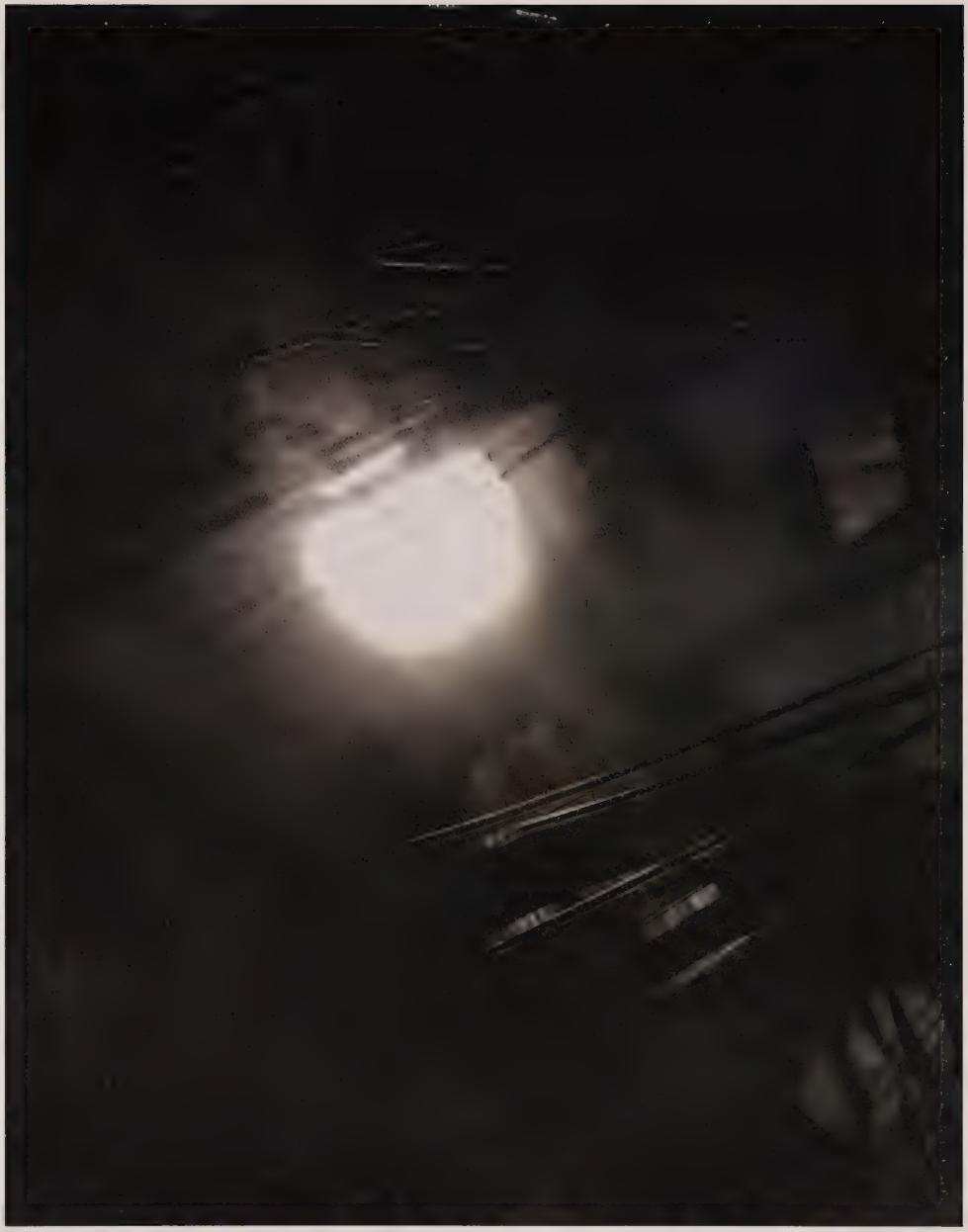
Matt Delphenich



Aimee Derrah

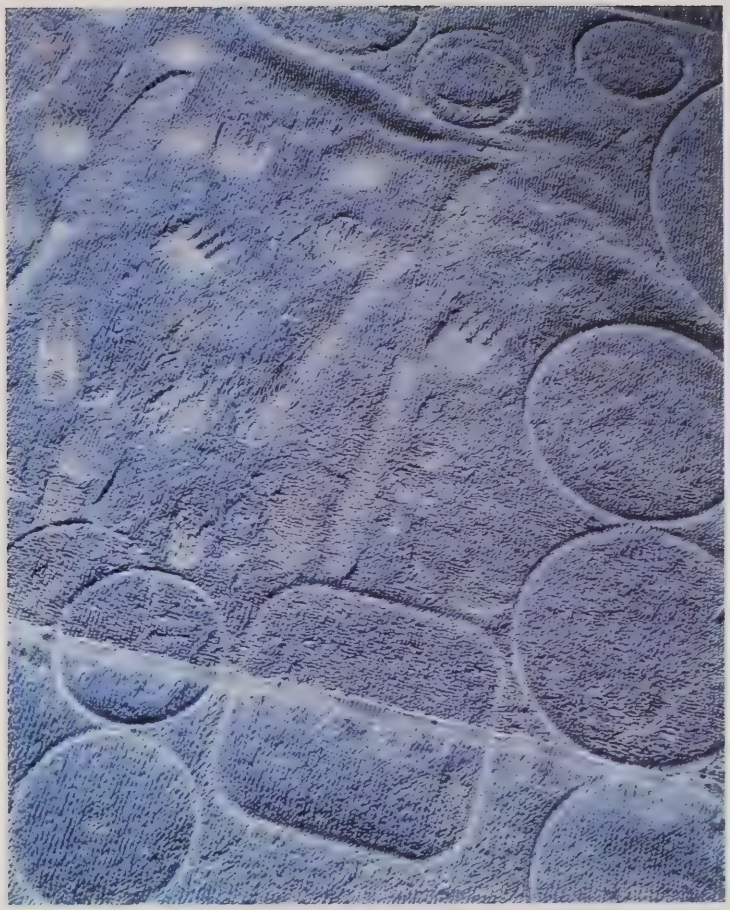


Katie Dodge



Jeff Downer

Quinn W Gorbutt



Marissa Grossi

Michael Haas

Kat Hall

Alyssa Heath

Scarlett Hoey

Lauren Keefe

Natanya Khashan

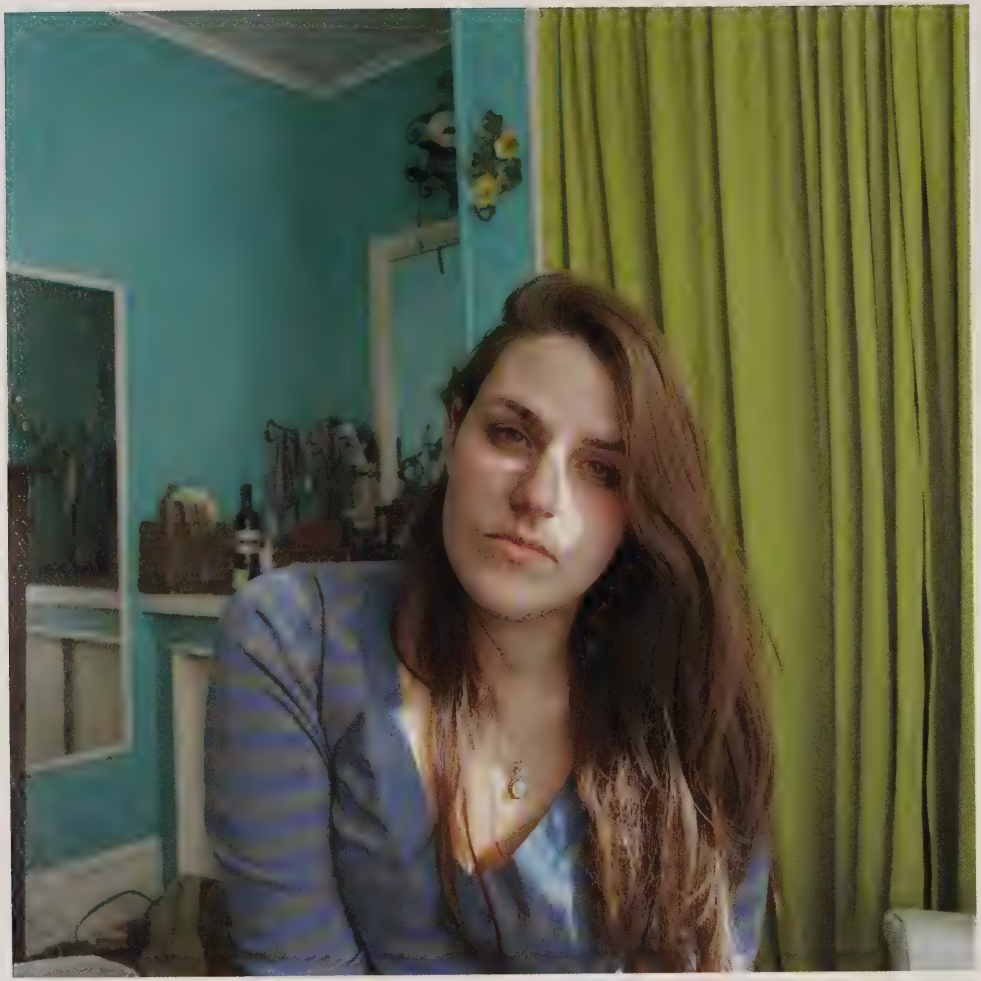
Alexa King

ZIP

Danielle Larosee

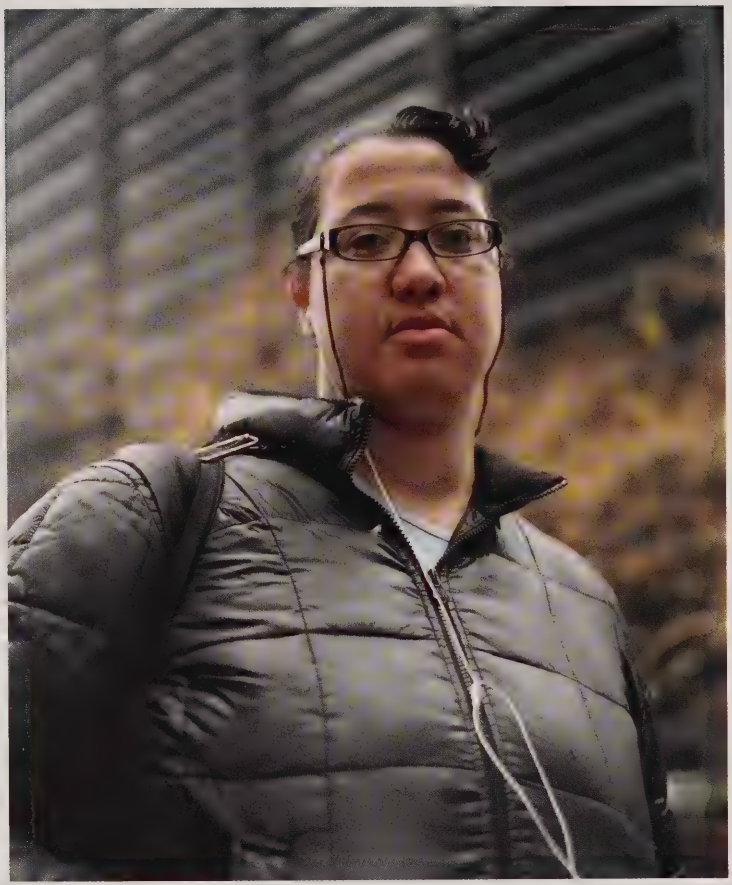
Katrina Marques

Lauren McMahon



Jamie Medeiros

Kata Medeiros



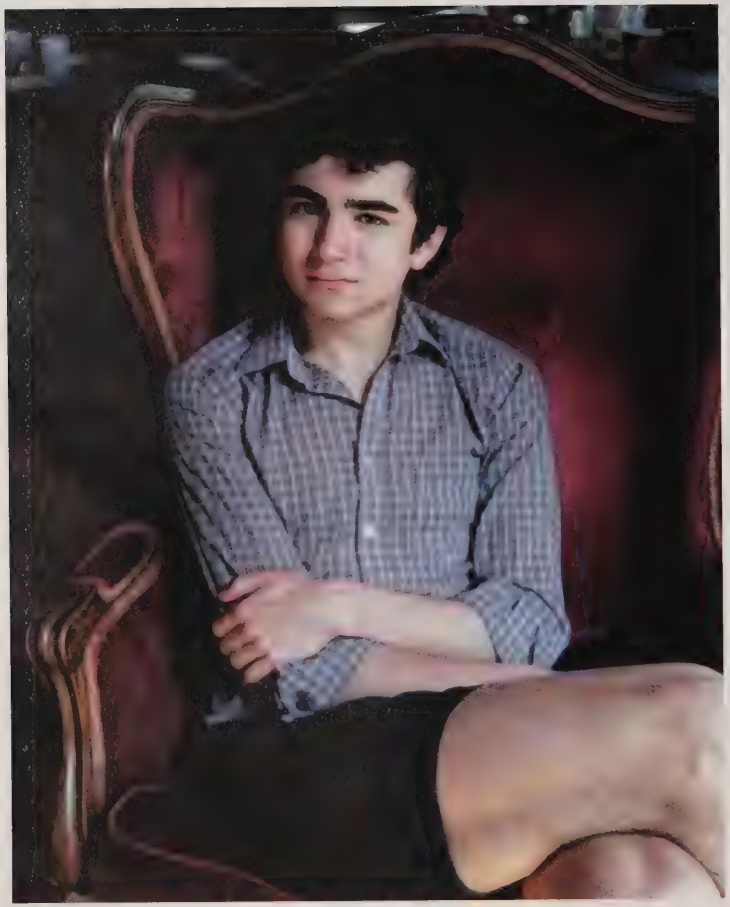
Megan Murphy

LOVELY FINANCE
HAVE CLEARLY DESERTED

Robin Myers

Yekaterina Nayyer

Kayla O'Malley

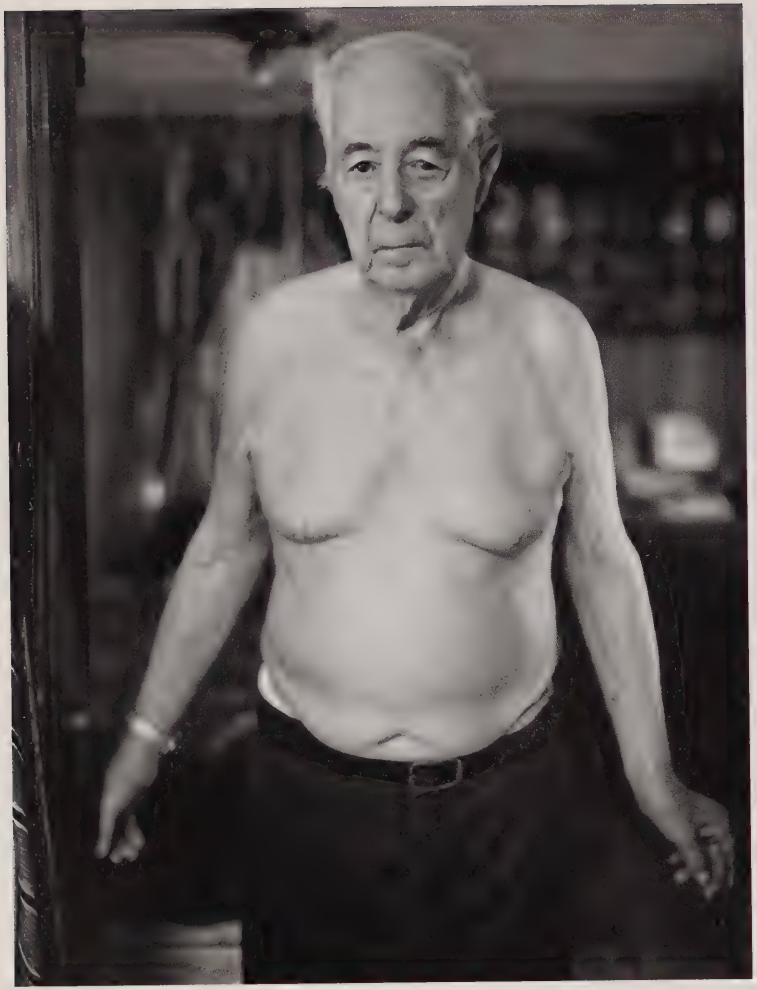


Kate Schenot

Katharine Shields

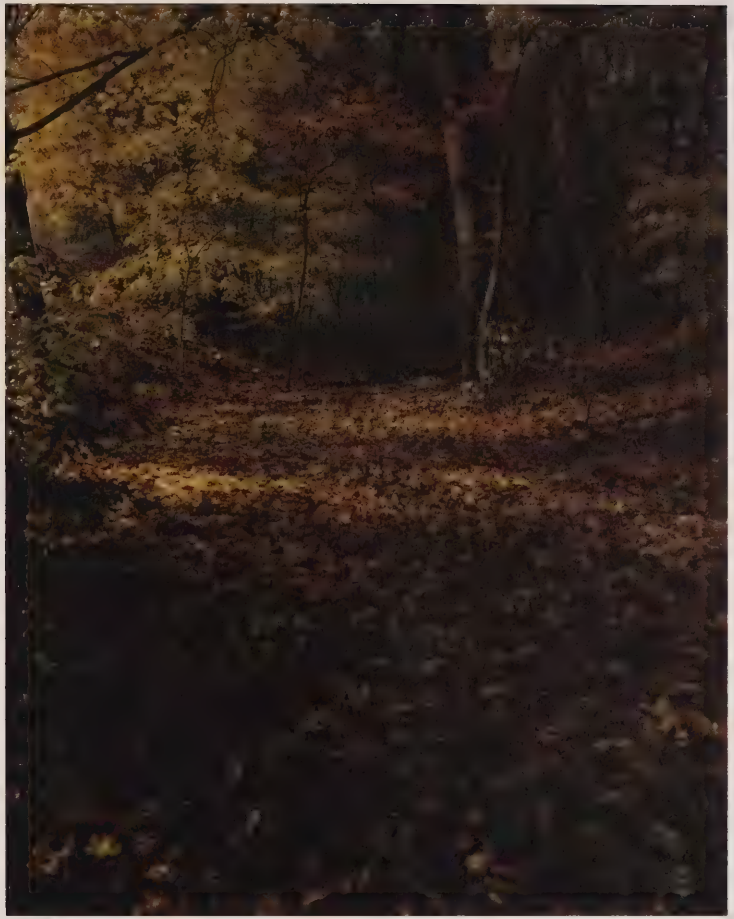
Al Straggas

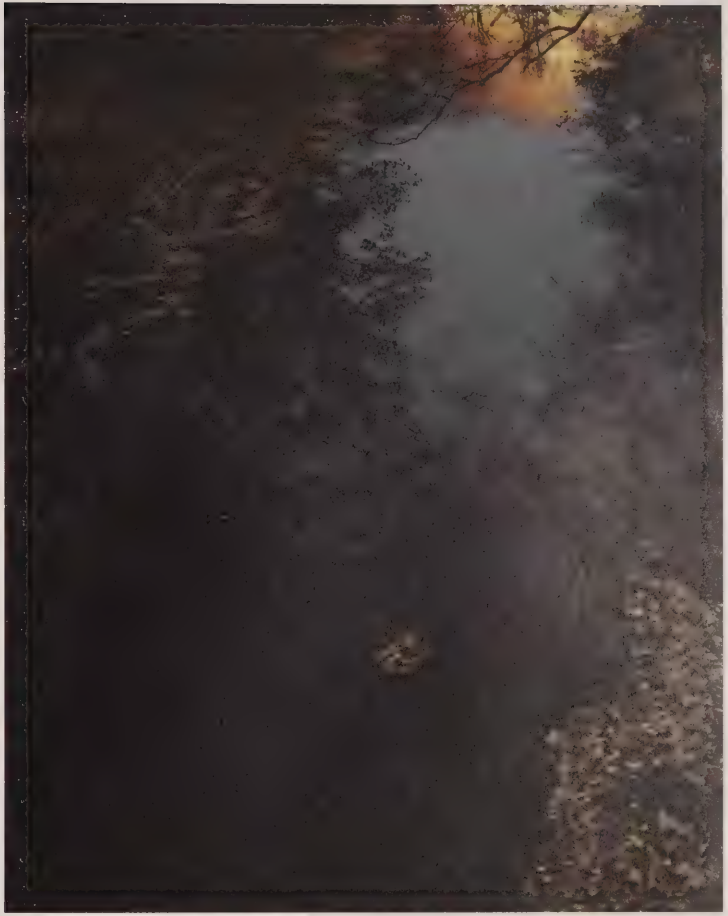
Stephanie Telesco



DallasJames White

Wyke Valkema





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We would also like to acknowledge the generosity of the numerous artists who donated books to our auction fundraiser, the proceeds of which have entirely offset the cost of this publication. It is worthy to note that every donated book and print found its way into the hands of an excited and appreciative bidder. Thanks is also due to Hunter O'Hanian, Dani Stefanik and the other staff members in the Office of Institutional Advancement for helping make the auction the success that it was. Lynn Tibbets deserves special thanks for her matchless help in orchestrating and executing a seamless fundraising event. Special mention must be made to the 2012 Photography MFA students whose spirited bidding at the auction provided significant resources for the production of this catalog.

To the many Graduate, Post-Bac and fellow undergraduate students whose experience at MassArt has overlapped with our own, we offer our thanks and best wishes. The sense of camaraderie, friendship and community that has developed in our department is unique and invaluable. We hope that it continues both in and beyond MassArt.

Our warmest thanks is reserved for Galen Palmer and Stephen Tourlentes, two of our most generous supporters. Thank you for ensuring the availability of resources, equipment and facilities necessary to make our work, as well as for your all around good-heartedness. Our appreciation for you is unmatched. Thank you for everything.

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